

# MCD

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UPMC

Inside  
UPMC's  
replacement  
campus

## Community-Minded DESIGN

*~ focus ~*

POPULATION  
HEALTH

*~ spotlight ~*

HVAC &  
PLUMBING



Strategies for  
Fire Alarm Design

The main entrance welcomes visitors with warmth and daylight, while featuring natural stone material pulled from the palette of the local quarry.

## *Inside UPMC Memorial's replacement campus*

BY MEGAN HOLMES | PHOTOS BY JEFFREY TOTARO

**A**s a replacement facility on a 100-acre site, the new UPMC Memorial campus in York, Pennsylvania offers not only the opportunity for expanded bed capacity and service-line growth, but also a chance for the community hospital to envision a new home that maximizes value to patients. Non-treatment spaces are purposefully modest, planning modules are straightforward and services are readily accessible to the care team.

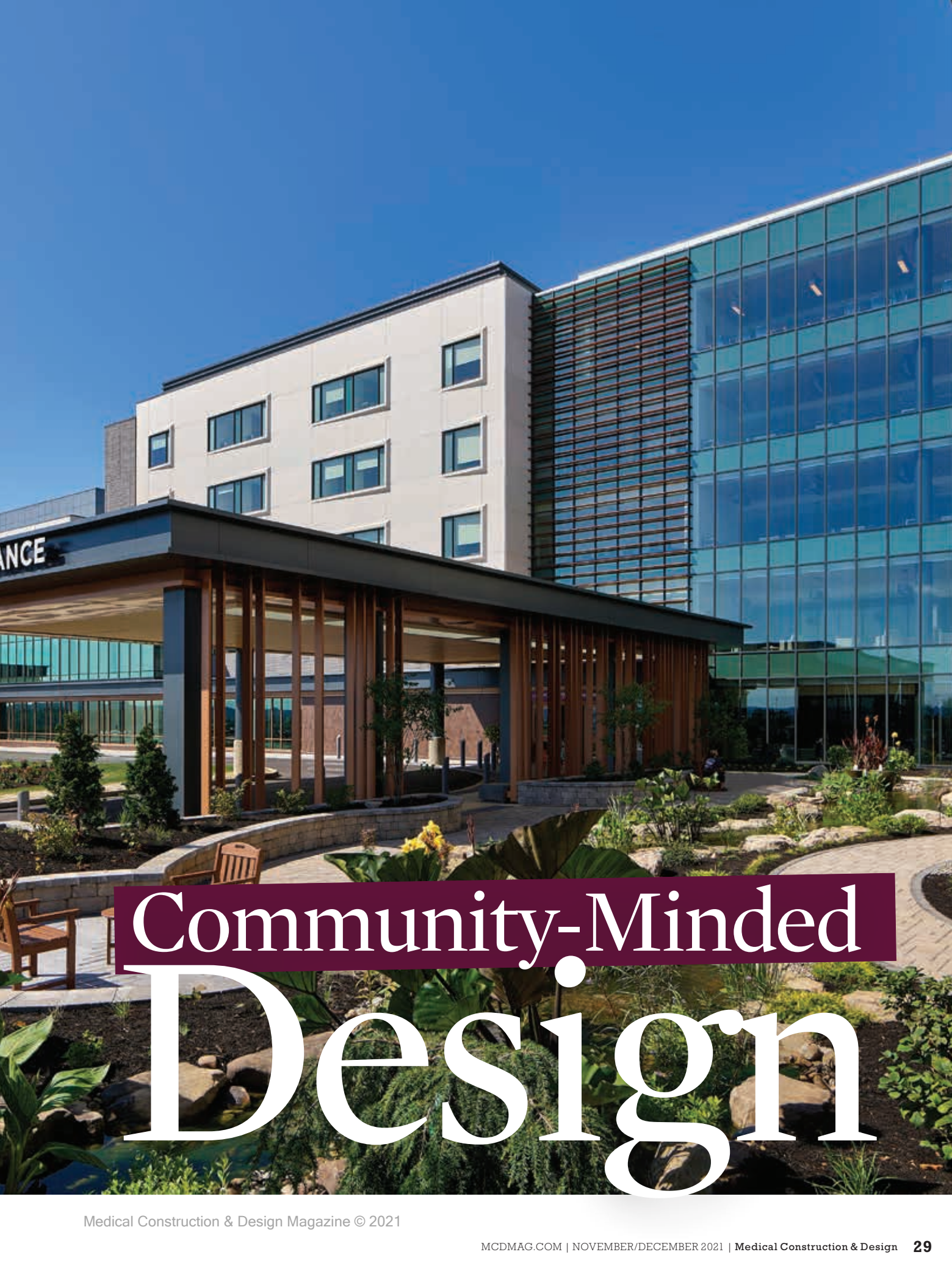
The 260,000-square-foot inpatient hospital and 140,000-square-foot ambulatory care building provide a comprehensive range of services from emergency care to advanced cancer treatments. Program elements cluster around three primary outdoor spaces that anchor the design and improve patient health and staff performance through connection to nature.

### **Site constraint challenges**

When Stantec was engaged by the client for design, the inpatient facility and sitework had already been started following another firm's design. Ultimately, that scheme was abandoned and the team set about creating a new, expanded design that adhered to the ideals of UPMC Memorial, while molding to the constraints of the previously approved site design.

As steel was being topped for the hospital, design began for a new ambulatory care building on the same campus to complement the expanded acute care services. Collaboration and use of the latest technology were keys to effective decisions and quick resolutions, allowing for the new ACB to be designed and built in 19 months.





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# Community-Minded Design



## PROJECT TEAM

### *UPMC Memorial Hospital*

**Architect:** Stantec

**MEP engineer:** Barton Associates (hospital);  
Stantec (ambulatory care building)

**Structural engineer:** O'Donnell & Naccarato

**Contractor:** Quandel Construction  
Group (hospital); Wohlsen Construction  
(ambulatory care building)

**Civil engineer:** Dawood Engineering

**Landscape architect:** Andropogon Associates

**Artwork:** The Art Partnership

**Signage:** Takeform

## Rock-solid inspiration

The nearby Roosevelt Quarry inspired the campus design as it embodies the city's history of manufacturing and industrial work. Studying rock and its various layers, the design team took insight from the characteristics of a geode — rough and subdued on the outside, yet refined and brilliant internally.

This is analogous to patient visits to the campus — transforming from ill health to wellness. Layers of transparency and materiality peel away at building thresholds, which emerge from the ground with a natural precast concrete material and transition into a refined tower.

## Branches of the community

UPMC Memorial came to the design



team with a vision that its new campus would bring the York community together. It was requested that the new buildings serve as a sign of growth and rejuvenation.

During the design process, the client selected a tree as the symbol of its culture to embody not only all phases of healing, but also strength in being collectively united. Just like a tree goes through seasons of new growth, prosperity or hibernation,

people similarly go through life experiencing these various states of well-being. The campus is an example of the restorative powers of unity and belonging to the surrounding neighborhoods.

## Welcomed by nature, healed by nature

The main entry of the hospital provides comfort and relief to the patient and visitor through architectural and



3

1. The façade features a tree — symbolizing all phases of healing — constructed of a backlit, perforated metal screen that is highly visible from the local area.
2. This healing garden features native plantings and a design that coincides with the area's surrounding local landscape.
3. Expansive accent materials, lighting details and access to natural light provide a vast and welcoming lobby space.
4. Families and staff can recharge in the café with its refreshing color palette with pops of saturated accents.
5. A soothing color palette, accent materials and decorative lighting create a more relaxing medical environment for improved patient experience.



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landscaped elements. The sound of water flowing into the tranquil koi pond commences the arrival process.

The assembly of the drop-off canopy fins, coupled with natural daylight pouring in through the canopy skylight, provide a calming entry into what can be a stressful time for the patient.

A shared courtyard serves as the anchor point between the hospital and the ambulatory care building.

The courtyard is connected to the hospital café and gives visitors flexible dining options with outdoor seating. On the ACB side, the courtyard is adjacent to the ambulatory surgery waiting area. The visual connection to the courtyard aims to provide a more calming waiting experience. During surgeries, family members can conveniently step outside when needed to get a breath of fresh air or take a short walk over to the café.

### Rooftop respite

The hospital's Hillman Cancer Center extends into an ADA-accessible roof garden for patients, staff and visitors. While everyone in the building can access the roof garden, a screen divides it to create a dedicated zone just for the infusion center. Infusion patients have the choice to look out at the garden and across the hills from inside or step outside to warm up in the sun. This garden encourages visitors to accompany their loved ones during long treatments and gives them the opportunity for a moment of relief or change of scenery.

### Efficient flow and natural daylight

Consistent through both the hospital and ACB is attention to efficient paths of circulation located along an exterior wall, exposing patients, visitors and staff to the many benefits of natural light. A central spine through

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1. This waiting area, with its expansive windows and natural color palette, provides a moment of pause and ties the interior to the exterior.

2. Private patient rooms offer expansive windows with natural light supporting healing, recovery and well-being.

3. An expanded surgical area performs a wide range of traditional, robotic and laparoscopic surgeries to treat colorectal conditions, hernias, hemorrhoids, obstetrics-gynecology issues, gynecological cancers and more.

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the hospital is consistent on all floors and comprised of separate, parallel staff and public corridors. This serves as a link between the north and south towers, allowing for efficient staff movement. Along this spine, the main lobby and waiting spaces stack at each level and share a common back-painted glass feature wall that supports wayfinding through the floors.

In addition to the feature wall, the outdoor healing garden is visible from all lobbies in the hospital and serves as a prominent wayfinding device. At the ACB, primary patient circulation and all sub-waiting areas were planned along the west façade of the building to expose patients to natural light.

### Enhanced healing spaces

The design of clinical spaces revolves around calming environments and patient control. The campus meditation space embodies the center of a geode. Low lighting levels and saturated colors create a cocoon-like

environment for visitors to reflect.

The backlit opal onyx with intricate veining and rich color variation serves as a bold, nondenominational focal point for those in the space. All imaging rooms include lighting controls that allow the patient to customize the color and brightness during every visit. This small choice can ease the patient and help them to feel like they are in control.

### Harmonious patient experience

The main entrance of the ACB welcomes visitors with warmth and daylight through the curtainwall façade. The ceiling of the space is striated to mimic multiple layers of rock that are exposed and extracted over time. Its layers are peeled back

to reveal a warm, saturated niche directing those arriving to a greeter. The natural stone material pulls from the palette of the local quarry, like the grounding gray precast on the building's podium. While rising on the monumental stair, the roof garden above the conference center starts to become visible and gives patients an upcoming destination to look forward to.

Overall, the design of the UPMC Memorial campus focuses on efficiency and practicality, while providing a welcoming and safe patient experience for years to come.

*Megan Holmes, AIA, is a vice president, regional business leader, Buildings (U.S. East), at Stantec.*